

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

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FIG. 3 shows a typical infrastructure of a hybrid IP/Cellular network and its major components. Assume that a mobile host 321 in a cellular network 32 would like to call a corresponding mobile host 331 in another cellular network 33. Conventionally, the call connection is established by connecting the mobile host 321 to an associated mobile switching center (MSC) 324 via a base station (BS) 322 and a base station controller (BSC) 323, so as to connect to the public switch telephone network (PSTN) 35. The call connection path is further directed to a mobile switching center 334 of the cellular network 33, and thus to the mobile host 331 via a base station controller 333 and a base station 332. Therefore, the call connection path among those networks can be indicated as MSC-PSTN-MSC. Furthermore, the H.323 gateway (GW) ~~331~~ 311 in the Internet 31 performs signaling conversion, and hence allows the call to be operated across different cellular networks 32 and 33. Under the current version of H.323, the signals are relayed through the PSTN35 to the H.323 gateway 311. Therefore, the interoperability to cellular networks defined in the current H.323 standard can be depicted by the path of MSC-PSTN-GW-PSTN-MSC. This is inefficient because the paths have to go through the circuit-switching PSTN 35, which results in the call occupying too much communication bandwidth. As a result, the communication cost is relatively high.